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First Lady Sally Ganem honors Annie Jeffrey Volunteers for their community service

(Lincoln, Neb.) Annie Jeffrey Volunteers received the 2013 First Lady's award for Outstanding Volunteer Group of the Year. This award is presented to a group that strives to make their community a better place to live through a variety of activities or by addressing one issue of primary importance to the community.

Nebraska's First Lady Sally Ganem presented the AJ Volunteers with this award on April 12, 2013 during the annual First Lady's Outstanding Community Service Awards luncheon ceremony at the Kearney Country Club, Kearney.

Annie Jeffrey Volunteers are an energetic group of 60 women who give their time, talent and energy to help Polk County build a stronger community. They volunteer at the Annie Jeffrey Health Center Thrift Shop and, since their inception in 1994, have donated over $93,000 to the Health Center with proceeds from the shop. Before the AJ Volunteers organized and opened the Thrift Shop, Polk County did not have a place to take or purchase gently used clothing, household appliances and furnishings. The Thrift Shop is also where needy families can go to get clothing at little or no cost.

The dedicated AJ Volunteers help with other community activities, such as helping at health fairs and assisting local nursing homes. The collaboration between the hospital, local businesses, City of Osceola, Polk County and the area churches has encouraged those who have never volunteered to join the AJ Volunteers and enjoy the gratification that comes from community service and volunteering.

For more information about the First Lady's Outstanding Community Service Awards, visit ServeNebraska at, www.serve.nebraska.gov or contact Kimberle Hall at 402-471-6228 or 800-291-8911.

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Mobilizing Nebraskans to Strengthen Their Communities Through Volunteering, Collaboration and National Service Programs